and others to some of their grandest discoveries. It is upon this principle that the geologist and comparative anatomist proceed, in the inferences which they draw from the animal remains found among the rocks. That bone, they conclude, must have served a purpose, and belonged to a living creature; and from the examination of it, they arrive at a knowledge of the shape, size, food, and habits of an animal which may have been extinct for myriads of ages. Proceeding on this principle, they can clothe the bones with sinews and flesh, and furnish a painting in which the living animals are seen browsing among the reeds and ferns and trees of an ancient world.

We believe that there is as little of useless waste in the more complicated dealings of God's providence as in the construction of plants and animals. The most ordinary observer may discover that all the events of God's providence are linked or dovetailed together. The most rapid concentrations of the various parts of an army towards a point by the pre-arrangement of the general, the most skilful adjustment of wheel and cylinder In an ingenious machine, do not so impress us with all-pervading purpose and plan, as the combinations and concatenations of events in the providence of God. The whole analog^ of nature, then, prevents us from imagining that disease and sorrow, with the manifest restraints arid punishments laid upon man, are incidental or accidental. It would indeed be strange, while everything else subserved a purpose,, to find such painful dispensations permitted without an end to accomplish by them.

But to return from this seeming digression, we find every-where in the world traces of original grandeur and subsequent ruin, and we find both united in a compact, and in some respects harmonious, whole. Our world in this respect resembles those

conglomerate rocks which are, indeed, the detritus of an earlier formation, and seem now to be a curious jumble, but which, notwithstanding, through the binding together of the parts, are among the hardest and most consistent of all rocks in their texture.

We see before us now, not a ruin, but a compact fabric—

> *' A ruin, yet what a ruin!—from its mass
> Walls, palaces, half cities have been roared."*

The impression left upon our mind is not so much like that produced by Thebes, or the cities of the desert, as by modem Jerusalem, still a city, but in singular contract with itn former